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**NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2019**

*“Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers  
we more than gain in fruits.” ~ Samuel Butler*

The garden looks really good for as slow as it started, the late flowers look fantastic. When you go there don't forget to ring the new bells. We have the blue pallets for the compost pile, I just need help in replacing the old ones, call me.

I'd like to take a moment to remember Mary Lou Lafond, her passing on August 24 was a surprise and she will be missed by all. Mary Lou was a certified Master Gardener since 1998.

I'd like to welcome Nancy Zimmer to the board as a director taking the place of Ron Gotowicki, she is an asset to our organization. Ron and Rose Gotowicki, I hope, are getting settled into their new home near Las Vegas and adjusting to the heat (I know I couldn't take the heat).

Project **RED** and the next association meeting will be on the same day October 2. If you are going to both you will have a busy day. Our speaker for Oct. will be Anne Collins, Tuscola District Forester.

*“Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.” ~ Unknown*

Ken Mitchell  
President

## Treasurer Report

The Treasurer's Report is available at every MG Association Board meeting, Master Gardener Association and Display Garden monthly meeting. A hard copy of the monthly report is provided to every Board member every month.

If you have specific questions, ask at a scheduled meeting, or before or after the meeting. Members may always call me; I do check and answer phone and email questions. If you have any receipts for plants for our projects or items for the Tea please get them to me, sooner than later. If you don't have a green sheet for reimbursement give me the receipts anyway, I will fill out the green sheet. If you already have a plan for purchases for your approved garden project turn in the request. It is no fun doing budgets with Holiday shopping.

Mary Paine, Treasurer

## VMS Reminders!!

Every Certified Master Gardener is required to have 20 volunteer hours and 10 education hours every year. **The volunteer hours must be on MSUE approved projects.** If you are unsure if your project is approved, call me.

On line webinars are listed on the home page of [VMS](#). There are also gardening classes offered by [Campbell's](#), [WOJO's](#), [Telly's](#) and [Bordine's](#) Nurseries. The last seminar for the year is [Genesee County's](#) on October 5. Check for available seats and other information on their website. We will still have 2 more speakers this year at Association meetings in October and December.

**You need to have your hours entered by December 31, 2019.** The Certification Period is January/February; there will be several reminders from Diane Brady. As always, call me with your questions.

Mary Paine  
VMS Ambassador

## Passing of Emeritus Master Gardener: Mary Lou LaFond

Long-time member Mary Lou LaFond passed away Saturday, August 24, 2019. The funeral was Tuesday, August 27 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Otter Lake. Donations could be made to that church. Please click for [Obituary of Mary Lou LaFond](#)

Mary Lou was a certified Master Gardener since 1998 and volunteered for many of the Master Gardener projects and activities, especially the Alzheimer's garden. She retired just this year due to health issues.

## **August Meeting**

The August meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, 6:00 PM at the Blueberry Lane Farms in Otter Lake.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08.

Jane Schade reported that the [Honey Festival](#) had a very successful day. Well attended and many positive comments.

Almont Heritage Festival is September 14. They are offering a 10x10 booth free of charge if we want to use it.

Highway cleanup is on September 16 at 9:00.

**Project RED** is October 2. See Carole if you can help.

Mary wants to know if anyone is interested in setting up a seminar for next spring. So far, only one in the area is scheduled. Some people showed interest in seeing if it would be a feasible project for us.

Theresa Bowen of the blueberry farm gave a **1 hour (education credit)** talk with her husband's help. We all got a blueberry pancake!

Sandy Peterson said Deb Jacobson's house was destroyed in a 5-alarm fire and they lost everything. She was taking up a collection for anyone who wanted to donate.

The next meeting will be October 2 at Mayfield Township Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted by  
Judy Niergarth (In absence of secretary.)

## **Board Member Update**

President: Ken Mitchell  
Vice President: Jeannine Monteleone  
Treasurer: Mary Paine  
Secretary: Linda Ladoski

Director: Georgia Ellis  
Director: Ronald Klocek  
Director: Jane Schade  
Director: Nancy Zemmer

Note: Nancy Zemmer has volunteered to take Ron Gotowicki's position as director.

Update: Ron and Rose Gotowicki have moved to the Las Vegas area and are doing well. They have been very busy getting settled.

## **Volunteers Needed**

Marylynn Darr is asking for assistance in weeding and trimming in the Herb Garden at Suncrest. Marylynn is recovering from recent knee surgery; if you are able and have time contact her. She has other commitments Tuesday & Wednesday.

## **Master Gardener Holiday Meeting**

**FRIDAY, December 6, 2019, 6:30 - 9 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall.**

Dinner, Speaker, short business meeting and awards will be followed by the annual gift exchange IF you want to participate.

We will have a catered dinner, but this year there is a cost of \$10 a person; we have not had projects to support a free dinner.

You may make your reservation at the October meeting or call Mary by the end of November. We will have a sign-up sheet for desserts to give Pat Maitland a break. Coffee, Tea, water and punch will be provided.

The garden gift exchange is optional, just as in the past but a limit of \$20 this year.

## **Educational Opportunities**

September 21, 2019 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Upland Habitat Field Day - Seven Ponds Nature Center 3854 Crawford Rd. Dryden, MI 48428. (\$3.00 Fee for non-members)  
Register: Hunter Salisbury [hunter.Salisbury@macd.org](mailto:hunter.Salisbury@macd.org) 810-648-2998 x 5

October 5, 2019 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM "Fall Into Spring" Educational Garden Conference  
Mott Community Event Center, 1401 E. Court St. Flint, MI 48503.  
Registration \$70.00 by Sept. 27, 2019 <https://fallintospring.weebly.com/>

## **Lapeer Conservation District – 2019 Fall Tree Sale**

Visit website and order online: <https://lapeercd.org/>

For brochure, please click: [2019 Tree Sale Flyer](#)

Stop in for a visit at: 700 S. Main St. Suite 120-C, Lapeer, MI

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM phone # 810-664-0895 x 5

## Thanks

Several enthusiastic Lapeer County Master Gardeners traveled all the way to the 2019 Michigan Honey Festival in Frankenmuth on August 3. Nancy Zemmer, Jane Griffin, Rick Talaski, Mary Ann McDonald, Christine Lawler, and Pat Meyer assisted kids and adults with a large number of pollination related crafts and activities. Fliers from MSU about pollinator friendly lawns and gardens were distributed and a number of people asked about upcoming Master Gardener classes. Questions about plant, weed, and disease identification often produced more questions than answers but everyone enjoyed the positive interaction with visitors to Honeyfest. Thank you for your help with this project.

Jane Schade  
Chairman



Please click for: [more 2019 Michigan Honey Festival photos.](#)



**MICHIGAN HONEY FESTIVAL 2019 - MG VOLUNTEERS**



## Tea

It was "Sweet Tea Sixteen" on Sunday, July 14, 2019. The Sweet Tea was flowing and the Master Gardeners were smiling.

From the hard work, dedication and devotion of the Lapeer County Master Gardeners, the Display Garden was fantastic as ever it is. The day was perfect and the only time the pavilion shines is on Tea Day. It was power washed, chairs cleaned, and decorated for a Tea. The only way to say the Tea was a success is by the response of the Tea Patrons and the dedication of the Master Gardeners, and also by the amount raised for the maintenance and upkeep of the Display Garden.

Thank you to the following:

Jerry and Pam for their tents and those who helped put up four tents and taking them down.

Carol, Wanda, Ed, Jackie, Bernadette, Rita, MaryEllen, and the rest who helped washing a years worth of dirt off of 130 plus chairs.

Tea Table Hostess and the fantastic tables: Jane, Pat, Kay, Marylynn, Sandy, MaryAnn, Maurene, Betty, Jackie, Carol, Wanda, Rita, Jeannie, Mary, Bernedette, Jackie, Mary Beth, Jane, and Amy.

Kay for stepping in for Dorothy; Arlene and Ruthie for serving a table and Sandy, MaryAnn, Jane, and Pat for taking care of two tables.

Ron and Ken for taking care of the money and selling raffle tickets.

Sue for filling the new container jars on the Lattice.

Pam, Judy, Elaine, and Sue for the hard work of organizing and keeping the jars and raffle items straight.

A special THANK YOU to Rose for all your hard work in selling the tea tickets, knowing what table the patrons are at and greeting each guest to the Tea. You will be missed. She did a fantastic job at all Sixteen Teas.

Mary for making sure the garden shines and glows and it will be a lasting memory to each Tea Patron, to continually support the garden.

And to Georgia, the kitchen would not run without her. Besides the 22 gallons of Tea she makes, we added Sweet Tea this year, and the Patrons drank it up. She knows and plans how to serve and prepare the servings for the Tea. And thank you to her dedicated helpers in the kitchen; you make the Tea a success.

Thank you to Tony with the 4 wheeler to escort patrons to the Pavilion. He supplied the music every sixteenth song was "Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen". Tony also announced the Door Prizes and Raffle Items for the first Tea. Second Tea, Rose took over as a farewell to the Tea.

Carl, Derek and Brittany, as always, out in the parking lot directing traffic, taking care of trash and with the teardown of the Tea.

Thank you to each and every Master Gardener that was part of Tea Thyme in the Garden. I still smell the Sweet Tea of Success.

Carol Skiba  
Tea Chairman.

### **Display Garden Report September 2019**

Another beautiful month in the Display Garden, the colors seem to be fading some and the 6 and 7-foot plants are starting to lean and give in to gravity and the wind. The Mexican sunflowers had a late start but they certainly caught up as the sun and crazy rain passed through the grounds. The cosmos and giant zinnias were trying to reach the height of the cup plants. The hydrangeas, again this year, continue to show off their hundreds of blooms.

Weeding is still the prime project for the garden although I did remove the petunias from the children's garden. The very hot days, power outage and spastic irrigation led to their early demise. Like last year, we will leave the plants the birds like through the winter and cleanup in the spring. Ken Mitchell has spent many hours and even his personal tractor cleaning up the composting area. He removed the broken and leaning pallets and is now ready to rebuild.

We were able to get replacement Blue pallets locally so Ken will need some help in the construction. Let me know if you are interested although we will be calling some volunteers. Remember as you weed and move garden debris, **DIRT does not shred** - it clogs the equipment. Branches are difficult to handle. If you have branches let me know and we will talk about disposal. Also, **rocks of any size and garden tools do not shred!!**

The Pagoda Bells have been installed and besides being beautiful and sounding great the residents enjoy them too. Stop by to try out the beautiful sound and notice how accessible they are to all. Many, many thanks to Jim Sillers for his continued generosity. We were blessed with many donations this spring enabling some major changes. If you have any idea for next year let me know. We have some maintenance to do and I have a list! See you soon.

Our next workday is Wednesday, September 18, 4:00 - 6:00 PM with meeting in the pavilion at 6:30.

Mary Paine Chairman  
Display Garden on Suncrest Committee

## SEPTEMBER

### Newsletter

- 9/11 2:00 PM - Seven Ponds Gardens  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/16 9:30 AM - **MDOT M-24 Cleanup**  
Bryan's North Branch / Bring Tools
- 9/18 4:00 PM - Display Garden Workday  
6:30 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest Pavilion
- 9/30 \* **Garden Receipts Due** \*

## OCTOBER

- 10/2 8:00 AM - **Project Red**  
Fairgrounds, Imlay City, MI
- 10/2 6:30 PM - **MG Association Meeting**  
Mayfield Twp. Hall / Speaker
- 10/9 2:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/16 4:00 PM - Display Garden Workday  
6:30 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest Pavilion
- 10/26 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden  
Fall Cleanup / Bring Tools

## NOVEMBER

### Newsletter

- 11/2 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden  
Final Fall Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 11/20 6:30 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest South Conference Room

## DECEMBER

- 12/7 6:00 PM – **MG Association Meeting**  
Mayfield Township Hall  
Recognition Awards / Speaker  
\$10.00 Dinner Fee Per Person  
Optional Garden Gift Exchange  
(\$20.00 Gift Limit)

### Newsletter Deadline:

Please send all newsletter articles and  
information for printing before the deadline on  
November 6, 2019 to: Linda Ladloski:  
[tladoski@greatlakes.net](mailto:tladoski@greatlakes.net)

# LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEETING

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2019 - 6:30 PM**

**Mayfield Township Hall  
1900 N. Saginaw  
Lapeer, MI 48446**

**\* BUSINESS MEETING \***

**\* SPEAKER: ANNE COLLINS \***

**District Forester at Tuscola County Conservation District**

**\* RECEIPTS ARE DUE \***

**SNACKS ARE WELCOME**

**(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)**